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International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the final outcomes of the International Meeting

Draft report of the Main Committee

Rapporteur: Perina J. **Sila** (Samoa)

Draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. At its __ meeting, on __ January, the Main Committee approved the following changes to the text of the draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and recommended them to the International Meeting for adoption.

2. Chapter XIII, paragraphs 64 bis to 67, should be replaced with the following:

65. Most small island developing States, as a result of their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities, face specific difficulties in integrating into the global economy. Trade liberalization and globalization present opportunities and challenges to small island developing States, including in terms of the erosion of trade preferences. The potential benefits from trade liberalization and globalization can be best realized if the specific limitations and vulnerabilities of small island developing States are addressed at all levels. [agreed]

65 bis. A universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development. In that regard, we reaffirm our commitment to trade liberalization and to ensure that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all. [agreed]

66. The decision taken on 1 August 2004 by WTO members, which emphasizes their resolve to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha, and the renewed commitment by WTO members to fulfilling the development dimension of the current round of WTO negotiations, which seeks to place the

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needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha work programme, is a welcome development. We recognize the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate the full and effective participation by small economies, notably small island developing States, in the deliberations and decision-making process of WTO. Many small island developing States either are not represented in Geneva or are still grappling with the process of accession to WTO membership. Most small island developing States also experience serious capacity constraints in meeting WTO obligations. [agreed]

67. In seeking to integrate into the global economy, there are a number of issues of special concern to small island developing States, including:

(a) The WTO accession process;

(b) Graduation and smooth transition from the United Nations list of least developed countries;

(c) Capacity constraints;

(d) Harmonized, coordinated and sustainably financed technical assistance;

(e) Structural handicaps and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

(f) Erosion of preferences;

(g) Structural adjustment;

(h) Relationship between trade, environment and development;

(i) Trade and food security;

(j) Lack of adequate representation in Geneva. [agreed]

3. In Chapter XX, paragraphs 91 to 93 should be replaced with the following, including a new section title before paragraph 91:

3. Trade and finance

91. Attention should be focused on the specific trade- and development-related needs and concerns of small island developing States to enable them to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate on small economies.

92. In order to address small island developing States' concerns, the following are of high priority: [agreed]

(a) Redoubled efforts towards the successful completion of the WTO negotiations launched at Doha on the basis of a balanced overall outcome that meets the ambition of the Doha mandate in fulfilment of the commitments ministers made at Doha; [agreed]

(b) Facilitation of the accession of small island developing States, where appropriate, through enhanced technical assistance; [agreed]

(c) Recognition of the importance of long-standing preferences and of the need for steps to address the issue of preference erosion; [agreed]

(d) Use of appropriate long-term mechanisms to facilitate the adjustment of small island developing States to post-Doha trade liberalization and timely implementation of the trade integration mechanism for small island developing States that are members of IMF to address balance-of-payments shortfalls arising from multilateral trade liberalization; [agreed]

(e) Taking into account the specific circumstances of each small island developing State when assessing the perspective of long-term debt sustainability; [agreed]

(f) Implementation of programmes to facilitate remittances, encourage foreign investment and support the development of small island developing States; [agreed]

(g) Developing human resources and institutional capacity to address trade-related issues of interest to small island developing States, as well as the analysis and formulation of appropriate policies and the development and resourcing of appropriate infrastructure required to address issues relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade; [agreed]

(h) Continuing the commitment of the international community to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, which provides valuable assistance to developing-country members, particularly those without Geneva representation, to participate more actively in the Doha round of negotiations and WTO more generally; [agreed]

(i) Support for regional representation to WTO to enhance the effective participation and negotiation capacity of small island developing States in WTO; [agreed]

(j) Working to ensure that in the WTO Work Programme on Small Economies due account is taken of small island developing States, which have severe structural handicaps in integrating into the global economy, within the context of the Doha work programme. [agreed]

93. Furthermore, the United Nations Secretary-General is requested to consider enhancing, where appropriate, the work programmes of relevant United Nations agencies, including UNCTAD, on the special problems of small island developing States to provide concrete recommendations to assist small island developing States in having access to and deriving greater economic opportunities and benefits from the global economy. WTO and other relevant international organizations are encouraged to use the modalities of the integrated framework of trade-related technical assistance for least developed countries to coordinate assistance programmes, including capacity-building for more effective participation in trade negotiations, and build on national poverty reduction strategies in order to mainstream trade into the development plans of small island developing States. [agreed]